

Rise of Native Landscaping

In recent years, there has been a notable shift in housing trends towards embracing nature and incorporating native landscaping techniques.

This movement, often referred to as “rewilding,” emphasizes the use of indigenous plants and natural landscaping practices to create sustainable and biodiverse outdoor spaces. As homeowners become increasingly aware of the importance of supporting local ecosystems and preserving biodiversity, the popularity of rewilding and native landscaping continues to grow.

Rewilding involves restoring and enhancing natural habitats within residential areas, allowing native plants and wildlife to thrive. Instead of manicured lawns and non-native ornamental plants, rewilded landscapes feature a diverse array of native trees, shrubs, grasses and wildflowers that support local ecosystems and provide essential habitat and food sources for native wildlife.

According to the National Association of Realtors, the rewilding trend is popular among eco-conscious buyers who want to promote biodiversity and are committed to restoring ecosystems.

One of the key principles of



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rewilding is the use of native plants, which are uniquely adapted to local climate conditions and soil types. Unlike non-native cultivars, native plants require minimal maintenance, irrigation and chemical inputs, making them ideal for sustainable landscaping. Native plants also play a crucial role in supporting pollinators such as bees, butter-

flies and birds, which rely on native flora for food and shelter.

However, one important consideration when implementing rewilding and native landscaping is the avoidance of cultivars – plant varieties bred for specific traits such as size, color or disease resistance. While cultivars may seem attractive due to their

uniform appearance and low maintenance requirements, they often lack the genetic diversity and nectar/pollen-producing capabilities of their native counterparts.

Using cultivars can have detrimental effects on pollinators and other wildlife by reducing the availability of essential resources and disrupting natural ecosystems.

Cultivated plants may produce less nectar and pollen, making them less attractive to pollinators and ultimately contributing to declines in insect and bird populations.

Instead of relying on cultivars, homeowners interested in rewilding and native landscaping should opt for locally sourced native plants whenever possible. Native plants are better adapted to local environmental conditions and provide essential resources for native wildlife.

By selecting a diverse mix of native species, homeowners can create vibrant, biodiverse landscapes that support a wide range of beneficial insects, birds and other wildlife.

In addition to supporting biodiversity, rewilding and native landscaping offer numerous benefits for homeowners, including reduced water usage, improved soil health, and increased resilience to pests and diseases. Native plants require less water and maintenance than non-native species, helping homeowners save time and money on lawn care and landscaping expenses.

Overall, the housing trend of rewilding and native landscaping reflects a growing awareness of the importance of preserving local ecosystems and supporting biodiversity. By embracing native plants and natural landscaping practices, homeowners can create beautiful, sustainable outdoor spaces that benefit both people and the planet.